

Through the sound and fury, Richard DeMary was brave and selfless; for his actions, he was awarded the Flight Safety Foundation's Heroism Award.

Deeds such as this summon within all of us a feeling of elation and humility. They are deeds that ask us to pause a moment and attempt to truly grasp the heights of human pathos and its deliverance, human courage.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the League of Women Voters on 75 years of extraordinary service to our democracy.

In 1920, women throughout the Nation cast their first ballot for Congress and President of the United States, forever changing the character of our country and of our politics. It was the League of Women Voters which informed and engaged these millions of newly enfranchised citizens.

Today, the League of Women Voters has over 1,000 chapters with some 150,000 members, both women and men. It continues to shape our public dialogue through study of major policy questions, and through the encouragement of community service and participation.

In Westchester County, where I live, the League of Women Voters is a leading sponsor of progressive reforms. Each year, the league produces thousands of voter guides to help us make informed decisions, publishes a directory of elected officials, and sponsors scores of debates with ample opportunity for citizen involvement.

That vibrant tradition has helped produce leaders such as Ruth Hinerfeld, who rose to lead the national league organization after a long and successful experience with the Westchester chapter.

I am also very proud to say that the founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt, chose to spend the last decades of her life in New Rochelle. Today, the city of New Rochelle and its local league chapter are temporarily renaming Paine Avenue, where Mrs. Catt lived, League of Women Voters Avenue. It is a fitting tribute to a leader whose remarkable works continue to shape our lives.

Mr. Speaker, 75 years after its founding, the league's mission is as essential as ever. For though the right to vote is secure, the responsible exercise of that right remains an ideal for which we shall ever strive.

It is a pleasure to thank the league for all it has done, and all it will do.

THE MADISONVILLE METEOR'S
CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to call to this body's attention the

history of one of the most enduring institutions in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, which I am privileged to serve in this House of Representatives.

For the last century one of the major agricultural centers of this district has been Madison County and its county seat of Madisonville. And, not coincidentally, during the last 100 years that beautiful section of our State has been served, informed, and led by the Madisonville Meteor.

The Meteor publishes its centennial edition on the very appropriate date of February 22. That is, of course, the birthday of George Washington, the father of our country. While this part is pure coincidence, I am proud to note that George Washington, the Madisonville Meteor and I share the observance of the same birth date; however, I do stipulate that my birthday was several decades later than the Meteor's and a full 215 years after President Washington's.

Despite all of its accomplishments under the leadership of a century of dedicated publishers, editors, and staffers, the Meteor could be most proud of its biggest and longest-running error—the mistake it made in selecting its own name.

The story goes that the newspaper's founder, Thomas J. Stevens, showed up amid the rolling, tree-lined hills of Madison County with a wagon full of printing equipment and a plan to produce a newspaper that would be so full of local news and advertising that area residents would find it indispensable. Maybe so, Mr. Stevens' first hired man observed, but he personally figured the paper would be a short flash and then disappear, leaving no more than a footnote to the history of Madison County. Kind of like a meteor causing a quick flash, then disappearing forever, he reckoned.

So why not call it the Madisonville Meteor, reasoned the amused publisher?

A succession of publishers have enjoyed the irony of the name and the call to civic duty. Edna Keasling now publishes this venerable weekly that manages to retain its down-home charm and interests, while more than holding its own on the electronic lanes of the post-nuclear information superhighway.

Publisher Keasling has noted that of more than 5,000 issues of the Meteor, the two most popular and most consulted are the ones marking the centennial of Madison County, created in 1853 and organized in 1854, and the 50th anniversary of the Meteor.

There will be a strong new light glowing at the Meteor as Ms. Keasling, editor Daniel Humphries, sports editor Mark Kuchera, typesetter Melissa Fautheree, compositor Marta Nichols, bookkeeper-circulation staffer Deenna Tobias, circulation staffer Carolyn Standley and darkroom operator Martha Fautheree pool their talents on Wednesday, February 22, to present Volume 101, No. 1, of the Madisonville Meteor.

I join the Meteor's many other friends in anticipating the first edition of the misnamed but well-placed newspaper's second century.

As an enduring example of our Nation's unique marriage of free speech and the free market, the meteor has earned our thanks and congratulations. Just as it will when our descendants celebrate Volume 201, No. 1, of the Meteor as it begins its third century.

BIPARTISAN INITIATIVE TO REAUTHORIZE THE CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of a bipartisan coalition of Members who have come together to present a balanced and reasonable strategy to reauthorize the Clean Water Act.

The legislation we are introducing today is the consequence of months of hard work last year building consensus among disparate parties to this debate. The States, cities, and counties, and the business and agricultural communities had significant input into our development process. The resultant product for the most part tracks language circulated as an alternative to last year's failed attempt to reauthorize, and just like our effort last year, its intent is to open up an honest dialog to draft a progressive and pragmatic plan. This proposal is just the starting point, and the continued participation and thoughtful analysis of all of the interested players is critical to helping us perfect this important legislation as it moves through the committee markup process.

This bill seeks to address the shortfalls as well as enhance the strengths of the current CWA programs. First and foremost, our proposal provides an affordable authorization level of \$10 billion for the State revolving fund over the next 6 years. In doing so, we propose, in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with the current budgetary climate, to provide needed funds to States to improve water quality, presenting a more accurate picture of what the Federal Government can afford in these areas, while maintaining high enough allocations to allow the programs to remain viable.

Another crucial area that this bipartisan initiative also intends to address is the nonpoint source section 319 program. Developing innovative strategies to address our nonpoint source problems without the onerous and often-counterproductive command and control regulatory overkill will be important to the future effectiveness of the entire Clean Water Program.

Finally, among the other important provisions of the bill is a long overdue effort to comprehensively resolve the enigma that is our Federal Wetlands Program. The obscure and burdensome section 404 permitting program would be revised to establish a system of multiclassifications that protects the most pristine wetlands and coastal marshes, while also preserving the rights of property owners to utilize those lands that are less valuable.

I firmly believe that too often—and the section 404 wetland permit program is a prime example—the institutional arrogance and ignorance of bureaucrats and government agencies has spawned ineffective and inflexible programs beyond the scope of their intended authorizations. These programs are neither cost effective nor improve the quality of our waters. We have forgotten that properly motivated individuals and businesses, rather than bureaucrats and politicians, are much better equipped to efficiently allocate financial and human resources toward the economic and

environmental well-being of their land. We must give them the tools to do so.

Therefore, I welcome my colleagues and the affected parties to the clean water debate to comment on this legislation because only with substantive and constructive deliberation will the right balance between the economy and the environment be reached.

LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING SALE OF ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to sell the Alaska Power Administration's two hydroelectric projects.

This legislation will authorize the sale of the Alaska Power Administration. The Alaska Power Administration is different from the other Federal Power Marketing Agencies of the Department of Energy. Its two hydroelectric projects, Eklutna and Snettisham, were never intended by Congress to remain indefinitely under Federal control. The Eklutna Project Act, for example, states that "Upon completion of amortization of the capital investment allocated to power, the Secretary is authorized and directed to report to the Congress upon the feasibility and desirability of transferring the Eklutna project to public ownership and control in Alaska." Moreover, these two projects were created specifically to promote economic and industrial development in Alaska, and they are not the product of a water resource management plan.

I am a strong advocate of insuring that Alaskans control their own destiny, which is what this bill is all about. It will put the management of these two hydroelectric projects into the hands of those who best know Alaska. One project will be sold to the State of Alaska, and the other will be sold to a group of three Alaskan public electric utilities.

Equally as important, this legislation will relieve the Federal Government of the expense of operating and maintaining these two projects. It also provides for the termination of the Alaska Power Administration once the sale is complete, further saving money for taxpayers.

It is important to note that this legislation provides necessary safeguards for the environment. It requires the State of Alaska and the Eklutna purchasers to abide by the memorandum of agreement they entered into regarding the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife. The legislation makes this legally enforceable.

Last year a similar provision was included in the H.R. 300, the Re-inventing Government package and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2383, the Alaska Power Administration Sale Authorization Act. The administration testified in strong support of this legislation. Unfortunately, there was little time to consider them late in the session. With early introduction this Congress, I am hopeful that we will see this legislation enacted into law.

There is one provision which needs to be included in the Alaska Power Administration legislation before it is sent to the President for

signature, but I have not included it because it addresses the Internal Revenue Code. I hope to have that issue addressed in other legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITIZENS OF MARFA, TX

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today to pay a tribute to the citizens of Marfa, TX for their courage and commitment in the face of adversity. Recently, the community suffered a tremendous loss when an important, historical building on Marfa's main street was devastated by fire.

For more than half a century, the old building was part of Marfa's landscape. At the time of the fire, the city hall, the police department and emergency medical services were located in the building. It also housed most of Marfa's important records. Not only did the fire ruin these important offices and documents, but it also destroyed a piece of the town's history.

Although most of you have never been to Marfa, you might recall the town as the setting of the famous silver-screen classic, "Giant." One of the landmarks from the movie, the Palace Theater, also suffered extensive smoke and water damage. However, the destruction this fire caused hasn't slowed the town down one bit.

The fire occurred even as Marfa was preparing for a big spring festival celebrating "Giant." Yet, instead of letting the fire ruin their celebration, the citizens of Marfa have pulled together to repair and restore the Palace Theater in time for the May event.

Since the fire, the town has pretty much returned to business as usual, although that business is being taken care of in temporary offices. This would not have been possible without the outpouring of help and generosity from so many Marfa citizens. Special thanks goes to Marfa Mayor Fritz Kahl, whose leadership and determination helped the folks of Marfa pull together to get through this sad situation. In addition, such people as County Judge Jake Brisbin Jr., Glenn Garcia, Abe Gonzalez, David and Ellen Kimble, Judy Ledbetter, Charles Mertz, Teryn Muench, Floyd Neal, Carolyn and Bill Renfro, Blaine Shuffield, Rusty Taylor and many others have made this situation a lot more bearable for the town. The services offered by the Big Bend Regional Medical Center and the Marfa Border Patrol Sector were also very helpful.

And the generosity didn't stop at the Marfa City limits. Folks from other west Texas towns came to lend a helping hand and bring extra emergency equipment. Firefighters from Alpine, Fort Stockton, and Fort Davis valiantly fought the blaze right alongside the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department. The spirit of comradery in west Texas is unmatched.

I salute the citizens of Marfa for preserving their history and protecting their future. Although a fire destroyed documents and a historical building, it could never shatter the spirit of pride and optimism which runs deep in the hearts of Texans.

THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION ACT

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to a growing threat to our national security—our increased reliance on foreign oil. Last year, for the first time in the history of our Nation, we imported over half the oil that we consumed. By the year 2010, the Department of Energy [DOE] estimates that imports could make up as much as 60 percent of our Nation's petroleum needs.

While imports are rising, U.S. oil production is on a drastic decline. Crude oil production in 1994 averaged 6.6 million barrels per day, in comparison to the 6.8 million barrels per day in 1993—this represents one of the lowest oil production levels in the history of our country. Oil prices continue to fluctuate and natural gas prices are on a steady decline.

The truth is, that it's just plain tough for domestic oil and gas producers to operate in today's market. The cost of operation, high taxes, and costly environmental regulations make it difficult to continue to drill for oil and gas. It's time for us to start paying attention and provide some relief and incentives for the American energy industry. Everyone talks a good game about "America first" * * * "buy American products" * * * "hire American labor" * * * and I agree. But, those same people don't seem to have a problem pouring foreign gasoline in our American cars.

Earlier today I, along with Representatives COBURN, BREWSTER, ISTOOK, LARGENT, and WATTS, introduced a plan that would help boost domestic production and lessen our reliance on foreign oil. The Domestic Oil and Gas Production and Preservation Act, would provide tax incentives for new and marginal well production; relief from burdensome Federal regulations; and would abolish existing bans on the export of U.S. crude oil. This bill will put people back to work, boost revenues, and help make the domestic oil and gas industry more competitive in world markets.

According to a recent investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this bill is needed now more than ever. The Commerce investigation, conducted under the Trade Expansion Act, apparently determined that increased oil imports could impair the national security of the United States. The Trade Expansion Act requires the President to respond to the report within 90 days of the Commerce Department's findings. It is imperative that Congress and the President take action to alleviate this threat to our national security.

Many of my colleagues will turn a blind eye to this report. However, I believe it is a warning signal that we must not ignore. This is not just an oil State problem, the energy crisis is a national concern that everyone should be worried about.

U.S. marginal wells—or low-income wells—are particularly at risk. Most people don't understand that each time a marginal well is plugged, jobs are lost and we increase our reliance on foreign oil and run the risk of losing one of our Nation's natural resources forever. Plugging a well is like shutting down a small